

SUGAR and PLANTATION

SUGAR IMPORTS RAPIDLY INCREASE

National City Bank Circular States United States Becoming Distributor Nation

According to statistics just published by the National City Bank, the United States bought more than a billion dollars worth of merchandise from its tropical neighbors, including our own island possessions, in the fiscal year of 1916, of which sum thirty per cent was represented by sugar alone. The sources of supply for all commodities include South and Central America, the West Indian Islands, Mexico, the islands of the Pacific, the southern frontage of Asia and northern Mexico.

The value of the principal imports is as follows:

Sugar	\$369,000,000
Rubber	100,000,000
Coffee	125,000,000
Raw silk	115,000,000
Fibers	60,000,000
Fruits and nuts	40,000,000
Cotton	40,000,000
Cacao	35,000,000

The figures show that sugar is our most important article of tropical importation, its total value being almost double that of its nearest competitor. Sugar imports also show the largest increase in value on the list over earlier years, with an increase of twenty per cent over 1915 and fifty-seven per cent over 1912, the year of the high record previous to the war. The total value of sugar importations under these statistics was \$257,000,000 in 1915 and \$369,000,000 in 1916.

The figures for all tropical imports show a gain of 200 per cent over 1900, when the value was \$334,591,000. In 1915 the amount was \$805,646,000. United States Distributing Center.

A very large proportion of this increase, says the National City Bank bulletin, "is due to the activity of the manufacturing industries of the country, in part also to the heavy demand upon us from Europe for material of this class, a part to higher prices, and a portion to a disposition on the part of our neighbors to make the United States a point for the distribution of their products."

With the opening of the Panama Canal and the disarrangement of steamship lines upon the Atlantic and Mediterranean, much merchandise formerly sent direct to Europe is now passing by way of the United States, part of it for transshipment in the form in which received, other portions to be transformed into condition ready for use before being passed along to the consumers of other parts of the world.

A striking feature of the large importation of tropical merchandise is the fact that the countries from which it is drawn take in exchange but comparatively small quantities of merchandise from us. Last year they took but \$400,000,000 worth of merchandise in return for the billion dollars in products we imported. These figures carry a convincing argument for fostering the domestic sugar industry, because money spent for Hawaiian, Philippine, Porto Rican and Louisiana sugar, to say nothing of the beet sugar of the West, remains in American hands and goes into American circulation for labor, American machinery and American supplies, while its transportation furnishes business for American ships exclusively and American railroads.

LATEST ADVICES ON SUGAR ABROAD

Willett & Gray report Cuban exports for the week ending October 26 about the same as last week; 32,984 tons destined to the U. S., Atlantic ports, 3729 tons to New Orleans and 2923 tons to Europe; a total of 39,946 tons. Stocks in the island stand at 186,700 tons, against 215,281 tons at this time last year. The weather during the week has continued fine for the growing crop. Latest Cuba cable advices report that the week has been dry (except in Western Pinar del Rio) until Wednesday, when general rains fell. United Kingdom.

The Royal Commission has decided to prohibit the private importation of sugars under 80 degrees polarization, except for the use of brewers, and then only in consideration of the name of the buyers being furnished to the Royal Commission within 14 days from date of sale. The discount allowed purchasers of sugar has been reduced from two and a half per cent to one and three-quarter per cent.

Because of the high price of sugar and the high prevailing tariff the new discount rate will yield approximately the same as if the old duty of 10d were in force, with the present in bond sugar values. The commission still considers the following retail prices of sugar admissible: Granulated, 5d to 5 1/2d per lb.; Cane, 5 1/4d to 6 1/2d per lb., according to circumstances of the locality as regards distance from the ports and cost of carriage.

CUBAN CROP ONLY SEVEN MONTHS ONE

Speculators Who Have Sold Short For December Delivery Are In Panic

Under date of October 27 the New York correspondent of one of the local sugar houses writes as follows concerning the sugar market.

"Strength in this market continues and rather increases than diminishes. Early this week the highest basis price obtained since the beginning of the war, 6.52 c.f. for prompt sugars, has again been reached, and for the past two days surpassed by a new high level of 6.65 c.f., at which price several lots have been purchased by refiners who have the market to themselves, as neither operators nor speculators have done anything on the street for some time.

There is still available ex store or for prompt shipment about 50,000 bags Cuba for which holders are asking 5 1/2 cents c. & f., but refiners are for the moment holding back. Sellers realize the strength of their position and are not at all disposed to make any concessions.

Domestic Crop Late

"The delay in the harvesting of both the domestic beet crop and the Louisiana cane crop contributes not a little to the advancing tendency. It is believed that for the six weeks to come all the beet sugar production will be absorbed in the immediate territory of the factories, leaving all the Eastern market to the seaboard refiners. These refiners are all more or less behind on their deliveries from one to three weeks. The congestion on the railroads, especially in the South and West, is very serious and interferes greatly with the movement of freight to and from the seaboard.

"It is definitely known that British commission is offering 3.75 cents f.o.b. Cuba for 6000 tons March shipment, which is the equivalent of 5.12 to 5.42 cents, duty-paid, New York, according as the freight then ruling may run from 25 cents, as at present to 60 cents per 100 pounds, the probable rate as indicated by the freight carriers. If this commission should be willing to increase its offering a quarter of a cent it could doubtless secure quite a large lot of new crop Cuba at a minimum equivalent of 5.40 cents duty paid here.

"Some 30,000 to 40,000 bags new crop Cuba have been sold for this market at 4 1/2 cents c. & f., January February delivery, which is better by 1.5 cents per pound than sales of sugar in the same position last year about this time.

"Rains still continue in Cuba and retard the ripening of the cane which has not had more than seven months' growth. This fact is the cause of no little concern to those who have sold in large quantities December options on the New York exchange in the expectation that good delivery Cubas would be plentiful about the fifteenth of that month."

CUBA CAN GROW TEN MILLION TONS OF SUGAR

With a tremendous acreage planted in cane Cuba is much behind the rest of the world in scientific agriculture, according to F. S. Earle. Although their average yields of cane are less than twenty tons per acre, "geographically there is a sufficient area of land in Cuba to produce readily ten or fifteen million long tons of sugar. Whether any such quantity ever will be produced there or not may be a matter of some doubt, but the possibilities of Cuba when intense cane culture shall become the rule rather than the exception are great.

"When the land shall be cleared up and freed of stumps and other modern machine culture can be readily adopted it will be found that our agricultural machinery inventors will advance themselves along the lines of Cuban cultivation as rapidly as circumstances will allow and that further than that, where any particular difficulty occurs in the utilization of machines, efforts will be made to so modify the nature of the cane fields as to permit the use of machines. Practise is Poor.

"This is the history of all progressive industries, the mechanism and the scientific method each other and the agricultural and master builders have produced in the last half century are evidence of all this.

"In the matter of drainage and irrigation very much can yet be done in Cuba. There is scarcely a year but when some great rain storm with scalding hot weather prevailing, does some injury to one of the San Domingo plantations, to cost \$1,000,000. The order was secured by the New York office and the machinery will be built in Eastern foundries and machine shops.

Brewer Plantations

Waialua mill will commence grinding the 1917 crop about December 15. All the other Brewer plantations will begin work between January 1 and 15. There will be no intermission at Hutchinson, as they will be harvesting 1916 cane right into 1917. Hawaiian Agricultural will end its 1916 crop in another ten days.

Waimea Is Grinding

Waimea Sugar Mill Company was the first plantation to start grinding its 1917 crop. The first carload of cane went through the mill rollers October 19th.

BONUS PERCENTAGE TABLE Sugar Prices November 1, 1915—October 31, 1916

(Cents per Pound) (Compiled by Bureau of Labor and Statistics, Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association)

DATE	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
1	4.425	5.145	4.58	4.70	5.02	5.96	6.46	6.40	6.08	6.21	4.80	5.81
2	4.425	5.115	4.58	4.70	5.24	5.96	6.335	6.183	6.08	6.21	4.80	5.89
3	4.419	5.115	4.58	4.70	5.215	5.96	6.39	6.183	6.08	6.21	4.80	6.02
4	4.455	5.38	4.45	4.445	5.215	5.83	6.16	6.183	6.08	6.21	4.80	6.02
5	4.55	5.38	4.477	4.445	5.215	5.83	6.46	6.175	6.08	6.21	4.80	6.02
6	4.58	5.38	4.467	4.445	5.235	5.83	6.46	6.175	6.205	6.21	5.02	6.02
7	4.58	5.38	4.52	4.46	5.26	5.83	6.46	6.175	6.205	6.21	5.14	6.02
8	4.58	5.38	4.49	4.70	5.27	5.83	6.46	6.21	6.205	6.21	5.14	6.02
9	4.705	5.045	4.49	4.43	5.27	5.83	6.46	6.21	6.205	6.21	5.14	6.02
10	4.86	4.89	4.49	4.43	5.46	5.83	6.46	6.21	6.205	6.21	5.14	6.05
11	5.02	4.89	4.63	4.53	5.46	5.96	6.46	6.21	6.335	6.21	5.14	6.05
12	5.02	4.89	4.52	4.53	5.46	5.96	6.46	6.115	6.40	6.21	5.14	6.05
13	5.02	4.675	4.432	4.43	5.46	5.96	6.46	6.21	6.40	6.21	5.14	6.05
14	5.02	4.675	4.605	4.735	5.46	5.96	6.46	6.21	6.40	6.21	5.14	6.05
15	5.02	4.83	4.455	4.592	5.46	5.96	6.46	6.08	6.40	6.21	5.14	6.05
16	5.02	4.83	4.455	4.955	5.743	5.96	6.46	6.08	6.40	6.21	5.14	6.05
17	5.02	4.83	4.625	4.89	5.89	5.96	6.46	6.08	6.40	6.21	5.14	6.05
18	4.83	4.89	4.64	5.05	5.86	5.96	6.02	6.08	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
19	4.77	4.89	4.77	4.89	5.86	6.16	6.02	6.08	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
20	4.77	4.89	4.747	4.89	5.74	6.15	6.00	6.08	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
21	4.77	4.89	4.77	4.89	5.74	6.15	6.00	6.15	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
22	4.77	4.89	4.705	4.89	5.71	6.02	6.02	6.15	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
23	4.77	4.515	4.705	4.89	5.71	6.02	6.02	6.15	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
24	4.77	4.77	4.77	4.89	5.71	6.02	6.02	6.15	6.14	6.21	5.14	6.05
25	4.77	4.77	4.77	4.89	5.71	6.02	6.02	6.15	6.14	6.21	5.14	6.05
26	4.77	4.77	4.77	4.77	5.71	6.02	6.02	6.15	6.14	6.21	5.14	6.05
27	5.02	4.545	4.77	4.86	5.89	6.46	6.02	6.41	6.27	6.21	5.14	6.05
28	5.02	4.58	4.705	4.92	5.865	6.46	6.02	6.33	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
29	5.097	4.58	4.64	4.92	5.86	6.46	6.02	6.08	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
30	5.145	4.58	4.64	4.92	5.86	6.46	6.02	6.08	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
31	5.145	4.58	4.64	4.92	5.86	6.46	6.02	6.08	6.15	6.21	5.14	6.05
Total	143,962	151,970	143,013	140,785	172,873	181,300	194,245	185,524	192,585	172,485	163,082	194,220

Grand total of days—366; total of quotations—2,036,024; average price per lb.—5.5629c; per ton \$111.25. Bonus for period from November 1, 1915, to March 31, 1916—41%. Bonus for period from April 1, 1916, to October 31, 1916—61 1/2%.

OFFICIAL GERMAN SUGAR STATISTICS

According to Centrallblatt für die Zuckerindustrie, "the estimates of the International Association for Sugar Statistics the area planted with beets in 1915-16 amounted to 370,480 hectares, against a final figure of 569,080 stated by the statistical department for the year 1914-15; 245 from the total number of 325 active sugar factories have worked up 7,627,676 tons of beets against 11,900,536 tons in the year before.

"This is thirty per cent more than in the year under consideration and if that same ration is extended over the eighty establishments which did not produce statistics, the total amount of beets, worked up in the whole realm is computed at 10,415,578 tons. If, on the other hand, the average quantity of the 245 factories which gave statistics is taken as a basis for the whole number, the weight of beets worked up comes to 10,117,936 tons.

"The percentage of sugar extracted from 100 parts of beet, is calculated at 15.70, against 15.3 in the year before and taking that as a basis, the sugar production of Germany, calculated as raw, is put down, for the former number of tons of beets at 1,578,516 tons and for the latter at 1,532,245 or about 1,600,000 tons, the same figure as has been mentioned also in other estimates.

"This is sugar from the root alone, not including that obtained from extraction of molasses, since in the year under consideration no such sugar has been allowed to be manufactured. The whole molasses crop has been diverted to the manufacture of cattle food, with the exception of 200,000 tons, which were set aside for the manufacture of artificial fodder-yeast."

FIRST WINTER RAINS WITH HIGH WINDS

There have been general rains throughout the group during the past week, cold weather and high winds. The Hilo plantations have had over thirteen inches in ten days, which is more than was really needed.

Going up the Hanalei coast the rainfall was less and the wind more. There was three inches at Paouli, two at Honokaa and very little in Kohala, but the gale that has been blowing across the north end of the Island is reported the worst in many years. It was a straight tradewind blow. Ditches are running full on Maui. Oahu has had showery weather and temperatures have been favorable. While windy, there has been no gale. Kona reports abundant rains and full ditches. McBryde reservoirs are all full.

IRON WORKS WILL BUILD NEW MILLION DOLLAR MILL

Honolulu Iron Works Company has taken a contract to build an up-to-date sugar mill for one of the San Domingo plantations, to cost \$1,000,000. The order was secured by the New York office and the machinery will be built in Eastern foundries and machine shops.

ARE WELL FIXED

According to the San Francisco Examiner of October 21 Honolulu Plantation Company has obtained a cash balance of over \$1,200,000. Hutchinson Sugar Plantation Company on the same date had a cash balance of over \$300,000, as well as a sinking fund of \$100,000 invested in interest paying bonds.

A. & B. PLANTATIONS

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company will commence work on the new crop on November 20, Maui Agricultural, Hawaiian Sugar, McBryde and Kahuku will grind their first cane about December 1.

SUGAR STOCKS LOW AND EXPORTS LARGE

Hence High Prices Will Continue To Rule For Many Months

Sales of raw sugar at New York during the week ending October 26 were 312,000 bags Cuba and Porto Rico and 10,400 tons Philippines and full duty sugars.

Willett & Gray report stocks in the United States and Cuba together of 262,728 tons, against 516,882 tons last week and 439,735 tons last year, a decrease of 177,007 tons from last year.

In part they state that Philippine sugar, for November arrival, basis 88, were sold at 4.90c per lb.

Louisiana advices report that fully 25,000 tons of the American's recent purchases will go forward to New York. Eight steamers have been chartered, the first to load about November 7. The freight rate has not been disclosed, but it is understood to be 25c, or in that neighborhood.

Atlantic Ports stocks continue to decline, and are now 69,925 tons, of which 17,953 tons are owned by importers. Last year the total stock at these ports was 211,439 tons.

On October 1 the Atlantic Ports stock was 149,354 tons. United States government official "in bond" figure for these ports was 130,278 tons. The balance between these two stocks includes sugars on which refiners have paid duty and also includes sugars on which no duty was collected, such as Philippines, Hawaiian, etc., the imports of which during the month of September totaled 48,500 tons.

Refined. The demand has been moderated for new business, but withdrawals are fairly good. One 5000-ton lot has been placed for export to Norway at about 6.30c basis. Export quotations generally are now 6.45c to 6.50c, net cash in bond.

Total exports of refined sugars from January 1 to September 30 have been 557,920 tons.

TWO PLANTATIONS ARE WELL FIXED

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Pioneer Water Development

Pioneer Sugar Company is replacing the guinea-storm water fluming in one of the guinea-storm above Kaunapali with funnels and ditches. The new line will be about six miles long when completed and will materially increase the water supply of the plantation.

LAHAINALUNA BOYS ARE CANE GROWERS

School Sets Good Example In Teaching Practical Agriculture To Its Students

Lahainaluna school's students in agriculture are growing thirty-four acres of cane for the crop of 1917. If sugar prices are as high next year as this school will harvest one thousand dollars worth of sugar per acre.

Commenting on the practical instruction in scientific farming that is being given the boys at Lahainaluna, H. W. Kinney, superintendent of public instruction, recently said that if "small farming" is ever going to be made to pay the small farmers have got to get the most out of the standard crops already established in Hawaii.

This would mean that in the coffee districts the boys must be taught everything on which instruction can be given about coffee; in the cane districts, cane; and where pineapples are the main crop pineapple cultivation should be made the basis of the "nature study" teaching.

The boy crop is one of the most important products of Hawaii. It is a product that ought to be attached to the soil, because four-fifths of the boys when man-grown must make their living from the soil.

Best the Plantation. The boys at Lahainaluna school grew more tons of cane per acre than the best plantation could do. "It is that sort of education that is going to be the salvation of Hawaii," Mr. Kinney said. "In Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska the schools teach corn growing, dairying and cattle-raising because these are the staple industries of the country."

Cane, pineapples and coffee are the staple crops of Hawaii, the cash crops, the crops that the school boys will have to be able to produce if they remain here and devote their lives to agricultural production. Hence these are the subjects on which instruction needs to be given, and when the schools take these subjects and base their practical curriculum on them "small farming" will become as marked a success as it has been a notable failure up to the present time.

With the right sort of an education the experience of the Lahainaluna boys ought to be repeated all over Hawaii with all crops.

DAVIES PLANTATIONS

Taupahoehoe, Paouli and Kaeleku mills will start grinding new crop cane about December 1. Theo. H. Davies & Co. announced yesterday. Waianak and all the other plantations except Kohala will start about January 1. The Kohala mill will be much delayed.

Market Last Week

Sales of raw sugar at New York during the week ending last Saturday were 53,000 bags Cuba and 6000 tons full duty sugars, according to advices received by a local agency. Offerings of light for November delivery were very light. Holders were asking 6.55 with out refiners bidding above 6.52.

Hackfeld Plantations

All the Hackfeld plantations will start grinding the 1917 crop the last of November or the first of December except Kakaia. Work there will be resumed about the beginning of the year.

RUSSIAN SUGAR CROP IS SHORT

Prinsen-Geertigs Thinks Germany Not Suffering For Sugar But Holland Is

H. C. Prinsen-Geertigs, writing to the Louisiana Planter from Amsterdam under date of September 29, says there was only 3500 tons of sugar in the whole of Holland on August 31, and on October 1 not a pound in store.

In Germany there were 30,000 tons of low grades at the end of July out of the 200,000 tons reserved for stock feeding purposes. He estimates the sugar consumption in Germany from September, 1915, to August, 1916, at 1,505,000 long tons.

"It is not certain if all that sugar has been consumed, but, since in the last months, the article was extremely scarce, it looks as if this really has been the case and that the new campaign opens with very restricted initial quantities.

Russian Crop One-eighth Short. According to official Russian figures, the area planted with beets in Russia on the 1st of June, 1916, amounted to 668,147 hectares, against 759,353 hectares at the same date of 1915, thus showing a decrease of 91,206 hectares, or twelve per cent. On the 1st of May of this year the estimate was still 691,000 hectares, which shows that disadvantageous influences have been very active in reducing the area to carry the sugar crop.

"We do not know whether after that date these influences have been stopped or whether they have continued, but, at any rate, a quantity of 650,000 hectares will be considered as a conservative estimate. Calculating the sugar production per hectares at the average one during the last ten years, we come to a probable Russian sugar production for 1916-17 of 1,584,000 tons, on the raw sugar basis.

Russia Has No Surplus. During the former campaign 1,877,146 tons of sugar were produced, with a stock left from the 1914-15 campaign of 293,657 tons, so that the total quantity of sugar available was then about 2,080,803 tons. Almost all of that amount has been either consumed in the country itself or in the adjacent countries of Finland and Persia, so that only a very small quantity will pass over into the newly-started campaign. Suppose that to be 125,000 tons, then the total amount of sugar in Russia in 1916-17 is the relatively small quantity of about 1,709,000 tons. This is less than the consumption in the year before, so that it will be very difficult to keep Russia with its full quota with nothing left for exportation, save to the neutral Russian markets already mentioned.

System Works Well. "I do not know the details of the process, but it is brought about by placing certain amounts of harmless chemicals in the water. I am not so much familiar with the process as with the results. Mr. E. K. Wall, one of the commissioners in charge of the water department of St. Louis, has been invited to scores of cities to explain the process.